

From: David A. De Graaf
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/10/01 12:24pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

The proposed settlement of the Microsoft Antitrust case is deeply flawed. It rewards Microsoft's criminal acts instead of penalizing them. This report is extremely disturbing:

<http://www.pbs.org/cringely/pulpit/pulpit20011206.html>

One of the main complaints against Microsoft is their propensity to twist and deface accepted interface standards and to fail to publish interfaces. Section III(J)(2) says MS need not describe nor license API, Documentation, or Communications Protocols... to companies that don't meet *Microsoft's* criteria as a business.

This cuts off essential information to the entire Open Source development community - the very people that need the information to hold this criminal monopoly accountable.

Since these folks are not working for a profit, Microsoft will certainly not consider them a "business", even though they have publically admitted Open Source is a major threat to them.

Many important Open Source projects, such as Samba, StarOffice and Apache, need this information. To make it legal for Microsoft to withhold it is just wrong.

Whatever else is in the settlement, I implore you to not impede or penalize Open Source developers.

Please correct this egregiously wrong-headed wording.

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